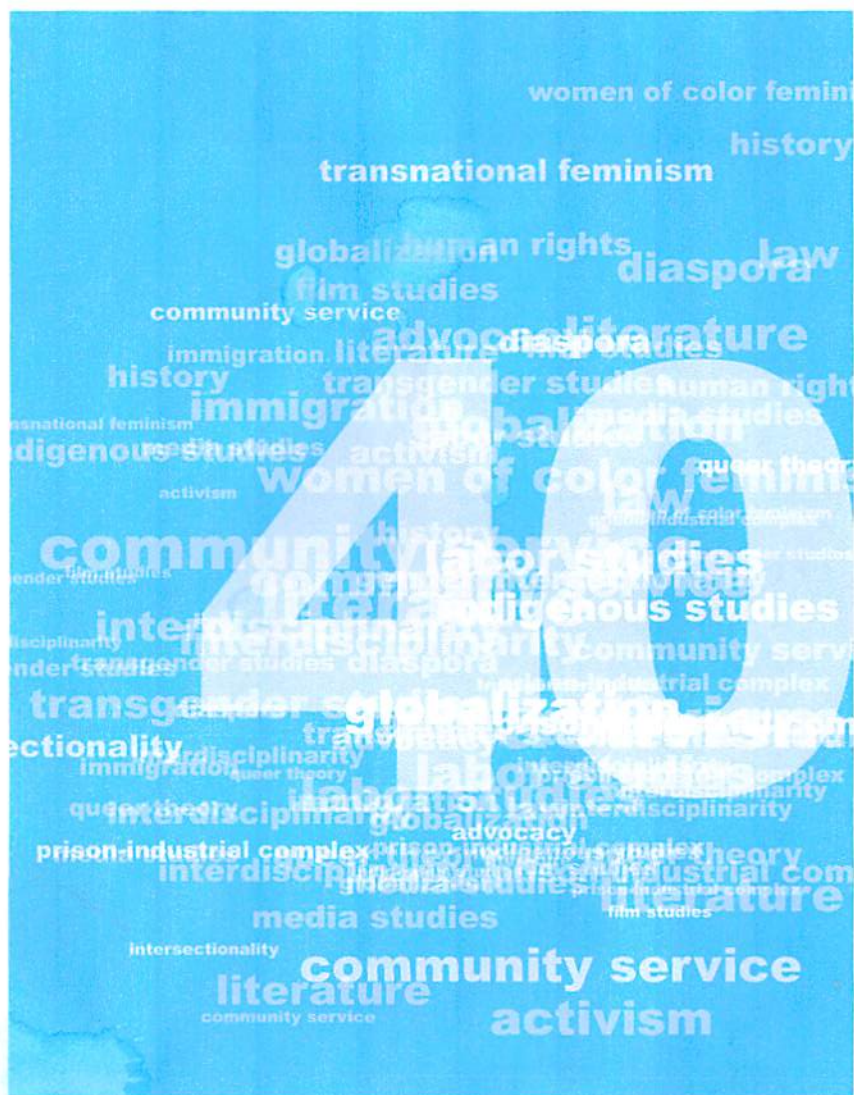


# Celebrating 40 Years Women and Gender Studies



San Francisco State University  
October 28, 2011

## Celebrating 40 Years of Women and Gender Studies at SFSU

The 2010-2011 academic year marks the 40th anniversary of the first courses at SFSU with a focus on women. These courses, initiated in the spring of 1970, set the foundation for today's Women and Gender Studies department. As Florence Howe notes in her 1976 publication, *Seven Years Later: Women's Studies Programs in 1976*, "Strong growth is evident at San Francisco State: there, in the spring of 1970, four courses, offered by three departments, enrolled a total of 160 students in women's studies. By 1976, 68 courses, offered by 22 departments, enrolled 2005 students."

In addition to celebrating the beginning of women studies, 2011 marks the 35th anniversary of the BA in Women Studies and the 20th anniversary of our MA program. Since our founding, over 650 students (BA, minor, and MA) have graduated from our department, and we currently have about 125 majors, 15 minors, and 25 MA students! In March 2010, we began our anniversary celebrations during Women's History Month with a wonderful event that brought together feminist activists and scholars from different fields and generations. Today's conference and reception celebrates 40 years of institution-building and program development and honors the faculty, staff, and students who brought Women and Gender Studies to life.

## From "Women Studies" to "Women and Gender Studies"

The Women Studies Department at SFSU was founded in 1976 as part of a movement to bring feminism and studies of identity into the university. At that time, most similar programs were called "Women's Studies." The apostrophe can imply that the discipline belongs to women rather than has women as its object of study. The program at SFSU chose to identify women as our object of study, not as the owners of the field. The Women Studies Department at SFSU is unique in its use of the construction "women studies."

Today, who and what constitute "women" is a complex topic. Since the 1970s, woman of color feminism, post-structuralism, transgender studies, and intersectional feminisms have transformed how, why, and who we study as "women." An added emphasis on "gender" in the name of the department follows curricular, activist, and research changes to the field. "Women and Gender Studies" suggests that "women" is a contested category of identity, always subject to a multiplicity of determinants, including race, ethnicity, nation, class, sexuality, and ability.

The expansion of our name in 2008 does not signal a shift in our departmental mission. The content of our courses has not changed. They will continue to include identity-based studies of women and men in transnational and multicultural contexts alongside deconstructive approaches to the categories of analysis (gender, race, nation, sexuality, class, ethnicity, and able-bodiedness) that frame our teaching and scholarship.

Program: Friday, October 28, 2011

9:30 - 10:00

Welcome and Coffee (HUM 587)

Jillian Sandell, Chair WGS

Paul Sherwin, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities

Nan Alamilla Boyd, Professor WGS

10:00 - 11:30

A Conversation about Women and Gender Studies at SFSU Today  
(HUM 587)

Moderator: Nan Alamilla Boyd

Deborah Cohler • Julietta Hua • AJ Jaimes Guerrero

Cael Keegan • Kasturi Ray • Jillian Sandell • Janelle White

11:30 - 1:00

Lunch (HUM 316)

1:00 - 2:30

Alumni Panel (HUM 587)

Moderator: 

Sherri Barnes (BA 1991) • Bonnie Gordon

Lani Ka'ahumanu • Amanda Scheper (BA 2004)

Sima Shaksari (MA 2002) • Robin Song

2:30 - 3:00

Tea and Cookies (HUM 316)

3:00 - 5:00

Former Faculty Panel (HUM 133)

Moderator: Jillian Sandell

Mina Caulfield • Sally Gearhart

Ruth Mahaney • Minoo Moallem

5:00 - 7:30

Gala Reception with Refreshments

Welcome, Sue Rosser, Provost SFSU

Introduction, Jillian Sandell, Chair WGS

Annual WGS Scholarship Recipients, Announced by

Kasturi Ray and Julietta Hua

Alumni Committee, Deborah Cohler and Sheryl Fairchild

Informational Tables from Community Partners (HUM 586)

## Participants

**Nan Alamilla Boyd** is Professor of Women and Gender Studies. She works on the history of sexuality, queer theory, historical methodology, urban tourism, and globalization. Her book, *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco to 1965* (2003), charts the rise of gay and lesbian politics in San Francisco. Her current project explores the history of tourism and the commodification of race and sex in four San Francisco neighborhoods.

**Sherri Barnes** (BA date) is Feminist Studies Librarian at University of California at Santa Barbara. MORE

**Mina Caulfield** is retired Professor (?) of Women Studies and taught in the department from YEARS. MORE

**Deborah Cohler** is Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies. Her areas of interest include feminist theory, queer/sexuality studies and the interrelationships among gender, sexuality, race, and nationalism in the twentieth century. She is the author of *Citizen, Invert, Queer: Lesbianism and War in Early Twentieth Century Britain* (2010). Her current research project examines the changing home-front ideologies of gender, sexuality, and citizenship in the United States during the wars of George W. Bush.

**Sheryl Fairchild** (MA date) is currently an MA student in the department of English at SFSU and has been active in developing the WGS alumni committee. Her WGS MA thesis was entitled TITLE HERE.

**Sally Gearhart** is retired Professor (?) of English and a founder of the department of Women Studies at SFSU. She is the author of *The Wanderground* (197?) and MORE

**Bonnie Gordon** (BA date) is \*\*\*\* BIO NEEDED

**Julietta Hua** is Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies. Her areas of interest include feminist theory, human rights and global feminism, Asian American Studies and the implications of the politics of difference in the post-Civil Rights, post-Cold War Era. She is the author of *Trafficking Women's HUMAN RIGHTS* (2011).

## Participants

**AJ Jaimes Guerrero** is Professor of Women and Gender Studies. She is a leading Native American and Mestiza author, scholar, activist, novelist and poet. Currently she is working on a manifesto which poses the question: "Is there a Nexus between Feminisms and Indigenism for Gender Justice in Transformative Activist Movements?; with an emphasis on Latin America?"

**Lani Ka'ahumanu** (BA date) is \*\*\*BIO HERE

**Cael Keegan** is Lecturer of Women and Gender Studies. His scholarly interests include queer studies, transgender studies, popular culture, political theory, and affect studies. Keegan's work has previously appeared in *NeoAmericanist*, *The Journal of Lesbian Studies*, and in *Challenging Lesbian Norms*. His current research examines the affective construction of the transgender body in American popular culture.

**Ruth Mahaney** was a lecturer in the department of Women Studies from \*\*\*\*. She is currently a lecturer at City College of San Francisco, where she has developed the ... MORE HERE

**Minoo Moallem** is Professor of Gender and Women Studies at UC Berkeley, and was Professor of Women Studies at SFSU from \*\*\*\*. She is the author of *Between Warrior Brother and Veiled Sister: The \*\*\*\** (date). MORE

**Kasturi Ray** is Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies. Her areas of interests include women and work; globalization and transnationality; immigration and diaspora studies; and colonial, postcolonial, and neo-colonial studies. She is currently at work on a book, *The Trade in Maids: Cross-Cultural Readings of Paid and Unpaid Domestic Workers*, which is a historical examination of women's work in Hawai'i, Bengal, the Bay Area, and the Philippines.

**Sue Rosser** is Provost of San Francisco State University and a specialist in the area of feminist science studies (?). MORE

## Participants

**Jillian Sandell** is Associate Professor and Chair of Women and Gender Studies. Her areas of interest include feminist cultural studies, feminist cultural activism, globalization and transnationalism, and anthology studies. She is currently completing a manuscript entitled "Transnational Ways of Seeing," which analyzes the proliferation of representations of globalization in contemporary U.S. popular culture.

**Amanda Scheper** (BA year) is Client Coordinator at Justice Now, which \*\*\*  
MORE

**Sima Shakhari** (MA year) is currently Post-Doctoral Fellow at University of Texas-Houston. Her WGS MA Thesis was entitled TITLE HERE

**Paul Sherwin** is Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. He is an expert in the fields of 18th and 19th century literature and issues pertaining to humanities scholarship and public higher education. He received his Ph.D. in English from Yale University.

**Robin Song** received her Master of Divinity from Starr King School of the Ministry at the Graduate Theological Union in 2001. She currently works with WestEd Program for Infant Toddler Care and helps certify trainers, teachers and professors throughout the US to train in infant/toddler development.

**Janelle White** is Lecturer of Women and Gender Studies. She has been active in the movement to end violence against women for over fifteen years working with INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence, the Hate Crimes Project of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center of New Orleans, and other organizations. Since Spring 2006 she has taught classes at SFSU on women and the prison industrial complex and history of African American women.

This celebration is made possible by the generous funding from:  
Paul Sherwin, Dean, College of Arts and Humanities • Sue Rosser, Provost  
and Vice-President for Academic Affairs • Department of Sexuality Studies  
• Institute for Civic and Community Engagement • Associated Student's  
Women's Center

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For support since our first classes were offered 40 years ago, we thank:  
All the students and instructors who have helped the department become  
what it is today, in particular those who first proposed the program:  
names here?

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